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Italian Migration To Australia: Was It Worth It?

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Italian migration to Australia has generally been studied as a one-way process – the migrants arrive, settle, have children and life goes on. Italian-Australians are now considered one of the most successfully ‘integrated’ ethnic groups in Australia.

This paper is about a project that is investigating the inter-generational connections between first, second and third generation Italian-Australians and their transnational activities, specifically of the migrants and their families who began their migrant lives in the north Queensland cane fields, Brisbane and Sydney. The aims of the project are:

- to explore and compare the life-long process of migration, settlement, identity and belonging, as well as the transnational activities among a cohort of older and younger ItalianAustralians (from Sicily and the Aeolian Islands) in north Queensland, Brisbane and Sydney.
- To explore and compare the life-work and transnational trajectories of these Italian-Australians with the same generational cohorts of relatives and compatriots who remained in Italy.

Using the concept of the *transnational social field* which focuses on multiple interlocking networks of social relationships through which ideas, practices, and resources are equally or unequally exchanged, organized, and transformed, in this paper I will discuss the development of a methodology to research transnational trans-generational cohorts.